

**CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF THE
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES WORK GROUP
NOVEMBER 17, 2005**

1. **PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS PRESENT:** Fritz Grupe, Jose Rivera
2. **OTHERS PRESENT:** Phyllis Grupe, Chair, Board of Directors, Community Partnership for Families of San Joaquin; Ken Cohen, Director of Healthcare Services Agency, County of San Joaquin; David Erb, Director, Child Protective Services, County of San Joaquin; David Hurst Deputy Director, Children and Human Services Agency, County of San Joaquin; Judith Jones, Deputy Director, Employment and Training, County of San Joaquin; Lani Schiff-Ross, Coordinator, First 5 of San Joaquin; Anne Baird, District Director, Office of Senator Michael Machado; Leticia Alejandrez, Foundation Consortium for California's Children and Youth; Robina Ashgar, Director, Community Partnership for Families of San Joaquin; Bruce Hopperstad, Director of Behavioral Health, County of San Joaquin; Bruce Johnston, St. Joseph Medical Center; Brian Taing, Deputy Director, CalWORKs, County of San Joaquin; David Gurst, Health Plan San Joaquin; Mariela de Leon, Community Health and Wellness Director Kaiser Permanente; Kate Tansey, Policy Assistant, California Labor and Workforce Development Agency; Trina Gonzalez, Special Assistant to the Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency.
3. **WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF THE CALIFORNIA PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY:**

Fritz Grupe welcomed the attendees and provided an outline of future health and human services (HHS) work group activities. Grupe stated that the HHS work group would work to ensure participation from all eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley. Grupe asked all meeting attendees to forward any ideas on how to ensure outreach to all interested parties.

Trina Gonzalez provided an overview of the Governor's Executive Order creating the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley. The goal of the Partnership is to bring forward recommendations to enhance the overall health and well-being of the San Joaquin Valley. Gonzalez also stated that future agendas can be found on the Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency website at www.bth.ca.gov.

Grupe announced that the next HHS work group meeting will be on December 8th and the Partnership meeting will be on December 9th at the

UC Merced campus. Grupe provided a list of the nine Partnership work groups.

4. **OVERVIEW OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES WORK GROUP AND MEETING:**

Fritz Grupe provided an outline of how the HHS work group is organized. Grupe provided a broad overview of the presentations.

5. **INTRODUCTION OF THE WORKGROUP:**

Attendees introduced themselves (see list of attendees above).

6. **PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION:**

a. *Health care coverage in the San Joaquin Valley*

Jose Rivera, Medical Group Administrator, Kaiser Permanente

Jose Rivera discussed areas of disease prevention and wellness. Rivera stated that asthma and diabetes care issues are significant in the San Joaquin Valley. Rivera stated that community outreach efforts, such as the use health educators and registered dietitians, have proven to be effective interventions. Rivera also stated that future action should focus on lowering the infant mortality rate and increasing first trimester prenatal care and suggested that private/public partnerships and collaborations be considered.

Grupe asked all participants to forward their recommendations in the following format: statement of the problem/issue/fact, recommendation, timeline, potential cost, and outcomes. Gonzalez also stated that the appropriate State role should be included in recommended actions.

b. *Nurse education training*

Kate Tansey, Policy Assistant, Labor and Workforce Development Agency (see attached presentation).

c. *Family resource centers*

Leticia Alejandrez, Foundation Consortium for California's Children and Youth (see attached presentation).

Robina Ashgar, Acting Director Community Partnership for Families (see attached presentation).

d. *Collaboration with Community Partners for Improved Child Welfare Outcomes*

David Hurst provided an overview of federal changes to the child welfare system and its impact on San Joaquin County. Hurst stated that San Joaquin County's priorities include: reducing the number of children reported to Child Protective Services by enhancing early intervention programs, reducing the recurrence of child abuse and neglect, and issues related to re-entry into the foster care system. Further, outreach to African American children is another priority of the county. Hurst stated that African American children are disproportionately represented in the county's child welfare system.

e. *Increase focus on long term training for CalWORKs clients that leads to family self-sufficiency rather than entry into low wage employment; development of strategies to reduce the complexities of Medi-Cal eligibility requirements; development of strategies to reduce the high medical share of cost for working families*

Judith Jones provided an overview of the challenges facing San Joaquin County's CalWORKs recipients. Jones stated that the focus should be placed on helping to move CalWORKs families away from poverty to self-sufficiency. Specifically, improvement needs to be focus on access to child-care, mental health resources, and most importantly, employment skills through training. Jones recommended that federal and state training regulations concerning training should be more flexible. Jones also stated that federal and state regulations surrounding eligibility are cumbersome and impede county ability to provide services.

f. *Focus, Challenges, & Opportunities*

Ken Cohen stated that the San Joaquin Valley counties continue to underperform in most of the significant measures of healthcare i.e. asthma and infant mortality. Given that it is very difficult for the San Joaquin Valley to compete for federal or state dollars, he would recommend developing an assistance program targeted to counties that consistently perform low. This would distribute a greater amount of dollars to areas with the greatest needs.

In addition to the nursing shortage, Cohen also expressed concern regarding the lack of physicians in the Valley. He would recommend tying the state piece of tuition breaks and scholarships to underserved areas and providing malpractice insurance coverage for physicians who practice in underserved areas.

Gonzalez also asked the attendees for advise on how to foster community outreach programs that provide education about public assistance programs and how to better utilize Certified Application Assistance (CAA) dollars. In addition, the Administration is also interested in learning about effective strategies regarding the uninsured in the San Joaquin Valley.

7. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Grupe adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.